GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4707
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES .
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the exists critical gaps in infrastructure and manpower hampering the efficient functioning of the primary health care centres in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) : Even though a vast health infrastructure has been created, there are some gaps in health infrastructure and manpower within the primary health care system and it functions sub-optimally. Some of the factors responsible for the sub-optimal functioning of rural Primary Health Care Institutions are:

Multiple tier of institutions, which had been created at various times, not being organized to take care of health needs of a defined population.

Inappropriate location, poor access and poor maintenance; Gaps in critical manpower; Lack of essential drugs/diagnostics; Poor referral linkages;

(c) The following steps are being taken by Government to improve the functioning of Primary Health Care Institutions:-

Strengthening/appropriately relocating Sub-centres/PHCs.Merger, restructuring, re-locating of hospitals/dispensaries in rural areas and integrating them with existing infrastructure. Restructuring existing block level PHC Taluk, Sub-divisional hospitals in some states. Utilising funds from BMS, ACA for BMS and EAP to fill critical gaps in manpower and facilitiesDistricts level walk-in interviews for appointment of doctors of required qualifications for filling up the gaps in PHC and Contractual Appointments/hiring of ANMs/Lady Doctors/Specialists. Use of mobile health clinics.

Currently, funding from Additional Central Assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) serves to strengthen health infrastructure and to improve functioning of centrally sponsored programmes in Health and Family Welfare, covering critical gaps in manpower, equipment, consumable and drugs. Funds from the PMGY under primary health care may be deployed for the procurement of drugs and essential consumables as well as for contingency expenses for travel costs, of ANMs, repair of essential equipment, repair/replacement of furniture, and for strengthening repair and maintenance of infrastructure in sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs.
Under the Reproductive and Child Health Care Programme, Rs.10 lakh per district has been released to the states towards minor repair and maintenance of buildings, especially for operation theatre, labour rooms and for improvements in water and electric supply. Rs. 10 lakh per CHC/district hospital is also released to all states for major civil works to improve facilities for essential obstetric services through construction /repair of operation theatre, labour room/or to provide/improve facilities for water/electric supply in PHCs, CHCs & district hospitals.